

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OPR-02

DRC-01 /129 W

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P R 121416Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3142

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 1842

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, MARR, TU

SUBJECT: REVOLT BUDDING AT HARB-IS LOCAL

REF: ADANA 045

SUMMARY. ADANA/INCIRLIK LOCAL OF THE DEFENSE WORKERS UNION HAS BEEN MAKING DIFFICULTY FOR THE NATIONAL UNION FOR OVER A MONTH NOW, STARTING AT THE UNION CONVENTION EARLY IN FEBRUARY AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, RAISING SEVERAL ISSUES WITH DIFFERENT LOCALS IN THE COUNTRY. THERE IS A DISTINCT FEELING IN ANKARA, BOTH AT THE CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS) AS WELL AS AT THE NATIONAL DEFENSE WORKERS UNION HEADQUARTERS THAT THE ADANA LOCAL CANNOT NOW WIN ON THE SEVERANCE PAY ISSUE AND IS BLUFFING ABOUT AN ASSOCIATION WITH DISK. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE CONSUL'S EFFORTS IN FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH ADANA LOCAL ON ITS STATUS WITH THE NATIONAL UNION. THERE IS FEELING IN ANKARA THAT THE LOCAL PRESIDENT, ZEKI KISIAL, IS MAKING A CAUSE CELEBRE OUT OF THE SEVERANCE PAY ISSUE (REFTEL).

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HE MAY WELL HAVE OTHER MOTIVES TO EMBARRASS THE NATIONAL

UNION OFFICIALS.

2. ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE NATIONAL UNION CONVENTION, FEBRUARY 6, KISIAL PROPOSED THAT THE FORMER LOCAL UNION PRESIDENT, EMIR POSTACI, BE THE UNION'S VICE PRESIDENT INSTEAD OF CETIN SOGAK. KISIAL AND OTHER DELEGATES OF HIS UNION WERE BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED AND WALKED OUT OF THE CONVENTION WHEN THIS MOVE FAILED. THE ADANA LOCAL FEELS THAT IT CONTRIBUTES A GOODLY SHARE OF THE PER CAPITA DUES TO THE NATIONAL UNION AND DESIRES TO HAVE ONE OF ITS OWN PEOPLE AT HEADQUARTERS. KISIAL HAS MADE THIS STATEMENT TO BOEING OFFICIALS. IN THE PAST TEN DAYS, KISIAL HAS ALSO HAD AT LEAST THREE SESSIONS WITH HALIL TUNC, PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS) ABOUT SEVERANCE PAY AND OTHER MATTERS BETWEEN THE ADANA LOCAL AND THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS. TUNC ON MARCH 11 TOLD THE REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE THAT KISIAL WOULD BE GIVEN ASSISTANCE BY TURK-IS, PROVIDED HE HAD A JUST CAUSE. TUNC IMPLIED THAT KISIAL'S CAUSE WAS WEAK AND THAT HIS THREAT TO APPROACH DISK (CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH REFORMIST UNIONS) WAS PURE BLUFF.

3. KISIAL HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A NUMBER OF LOCAL UNIONS WITH MEMBERS WORKING FOR TUSLOG AND BOEING. AMONG OTHER REASONS, HE SOUNDED OUT THE IDEA OF FORMING A SEPARATE DEFENSE WORKERS UNION WITH MEMBERS EMPLOYED ONLY BY TUSLOG AND BOEING, BECAUSE, REPORTEDLY, THE NATIONAL UNION WAS INTERESTED ONLY IN AFFAIRS CONCERNING THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. (THE UNION HAS ABOUT 21,000 MEMBERS WORKING FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND 5,000 WITH TUSLOG AND BOEING.)

4. THE NATIONAL UNION IS ALSO AWARE THAT ISIAL HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH OFFICIALS OF DISK, BUT IS DOWNPLAYING THE WHOLE MATTER. NATIONAL UNION OFFICIALS ALSO IMPLIED THAT KISIAL'S POSITION ON SEVERANCE PAY WAS EXTREMELY WEAK. THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SHOWED ABSOLUTELY NO CONCERN ABOUT KISIAL AND BELIEVED THAT HE AND HIS LOCAL ARE FIRMLY BACK IN THE FOLD OF THE NATIONAL UNION.

5. WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS WITH KISIAL AND SUGGEST IN LOW KEY THAT YOU CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM, KEEPING THE FOREGOING IN MIND.
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Message Attributes

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